

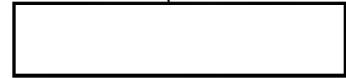
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Cease-Fire Developments

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Cease-Fire Developments



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After a brief lull, the Khmer Communists are back on the attack in the Phnom Penh area. On 9 and 10 May, Communist units forced government troops to abandon three small outposts some 15 miles west of the capital and reportedly also cut Route 26. Other Communist units attacked several government positions along Route 2 south of Phnom Penh, overrunning one about 10 miles from the city. Farther south, they shelled Takeo on 9 May for the first time in nearly a week and also probed the city's southern defenses. The Communists harassed government positions on the western outskirts of Kampot on 9 May, and counter-attacked government troops attempting to clear Route 5 northwest of Phnom Penh, completely stalling that operation

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LAOS

An Unyielding Phoumi Vongvichit

Communist negotiator Phoumi Vongvichit took a tough and uncompromising stance in a conversation with Charge Dean on 10 May. He repeated that all US prisoners of war had been released and indicated that a search for MIAs would have to await the formation of a new coalition government. Dean came away from the meeting with the impression that the Communists are fully aware that the government will not accede to their current demands and that no progress will be made toward implementation of the peace agreement any time soon.

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